



ASSAULT ON BCL MEN APS Azizul hit ADC Harun first

Claims DB chief saying role of the APS in the incident should be probed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch chief Harun Or Rashid yesterday said the suspended additional deputy commissioner, his namesake, was assaulted first at Birdem Hospital on Saturday evening.

The attack on the suspended ADC, Harun-or-Rashid, was led by President's Assistant Personal Secretary Azizul Haque, the DB chief told reporters at his office, adding that this should be investigated too.

The home ministry suspended ADC Harun on Monday amid allegations that he had tortured two Chhatra League leaders that night.

The DB chief added that Azizul Haque as a government official should have let the higher authorities know if he had any complaints.

"But instead of doing that, he called some people [in Chhatra League] and hit a police officer, broke his glasses, and chased him away in front of many people inside the hospital. I believe it should be investigated."

Azizul's wife, Sanjida Afrin, also an ADC of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, gave The Daily Star a similar account of the event at Birdem Hospital.

However, DMP Commissioner Khandker Golam Faruq

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

The pole with the orange tip was placed there by Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority to demarcate the Turag river. But it has clearly not deterred sand traders from illegally encroaching on the land in Mirpur Beribandh area. The photo was taken yesterday.

Jamalpur DC urges people to re-elect AL

Video clip of his speech at local event goes viral

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Violating service rules, the Jamalpur deputy commissioner has called upon people to elect the ruling Awami League in the next general election.

"The incumbent government must be in state power again to continue the development work. This will be the commitment of us all," said DC Md Imran Ahmed.

He made the comments while speaking as the special guest at the inauguration ceremony of a newly constructed building of Madarganj municipality on Monday.

Local AL lawmaker Mirza Azam, also organising secretary of the party's central committee, was present there as the chief guest.

"I hope the chief guest of today's programme will be a minister after the next polls and will do huge development work in this district," said the DC.

A day later, a video clip of the DC's speech went viral on social media.

Imran, who was a deputy secretary of the Statistics and Informatics Division, was made Jamalpur DC on July 24 this year.

As per the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules, "No government servant shall canvass or otherwise interfere or use his influence in connection with or take part in any election to a legislative body, whether in Bangladesh or elsewhere."

This correspondent could not communicate with DC Imran over the phone and via WhatsApp for comments.

Azam's younger brother Mirza Kabir, also the mayor of

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Md Imran Ahmed

NITROGEN DIOXIDE

A growing health hazard for Dhaka

Says global study, finds NO₂ level in capital highest in the country

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Nitrogen dioxide has become a cause for serious concern as the concentration of the pollutant in Dhaka's air is increasing while it is decreasing across the world, according to a global study.

This pollutant has implications for the production of "ozone" — another gaseous pollutant that can be harmful to human health, as well as the formation of particulate matter, said the study titled "State of Global Air: South Asia, A Regional Air Quality Snapshot."

The flagship study, conducted by the US-based organisation Health Effects Institute, said exposure to NO₂ can irritate airways, aggravate existing respiratory diseases, raise the risk of asthma development in children, and increase the frequency and severity of asthma symptoms in children and adults.

"South Asia is among the few regions in the world where NO₂ levels are increasing in some areas. Between 2000 and 2019, NO₂ exposure in South Asia increased by 22 percent, while global averages decreased by 5 percent," said the report published last night.

Data shows that in 2019, five cities in Bangladesh were among the top 20 cities with the highest NO₂ levels

in the region.

The cities exceeded the WHO Annual Air Quality Guideline for NO₂ (10 µg/m³), with Dhaka having the highest level in the country at 23.6 µg/m³, followed by Chattogram with 21.3 µg/m³, Sylhet with 13.5 µg/m³, Rajshahi with 13.1 µg/m³, and Khulna with 11.0 µg/m³.

In 2019, five cities in Bangladesh were among the top 20 cities with the highest NO₂ levels in the region.

Meanwhile, Kathmandu (Nepal), Hyderabad (India), Bengaluru (India), and Karachi (Pakistan) had the highest NO₂ levels in the region, in that order.

The report said a total of 31 percent of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) in the region comes from residential sources, including the use of solid fuels for heating and cooking.

Additionally, a growing fleet of personal vehicles and continued reliance on coal for energy production pose the challenge of increasing levels of NO₂ and PM_{2.5}, said the report.

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10 AIRBUS PLANES Govt buying them to get 'commission'

Claims Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam yesterday alleged that the government decided to procure 10 Airbus aircraft to get kickbacks.

"Their actual goal is to get kickbacks from this purchase of aircraft. Do you understand kickbacks? It means commission," Fakhrul said at a programme before distributing leaflets on dengue prevention in front of the party's Nayapaltan central office.

The BNP leader said the 10 planes are being bought by the government so that the money can be "stolen easily". "They might have already stolen the money."

Amid the soaring prices of essentials, people were expecting to have a good news during French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to Bangladesh, he said.

Fakhrul said that people are dying from dengue, and they even can't afford proper meals, but the government wants to purchase 10 aircraft to "make money".

PHILIPPINES TAX CASE Nobel laureate Maria Ressa acquitted

REUTERS, Manila

Philippines Nobel laureate Maria Ressa and her news site Rappler were acquitted of tax fraud by a trial court yesterday, in another legal victory for the embattled journalist and for press freedom in the Southeast Asian country.

Ressa, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2021 alongside a Russian journalist, is head of Rappler, which earned a reputation for its intense scrutiny of former president Rodrigo Duterte and his deadly war on drugs.

After the verdict was announced, Ressa told reporters her acquittal sends a "good signal" to the business community, as her tax charges "have a lot to do with the rule of law".

"The acquittal now strengthens our resolve to continue with the justice system, to submit ourselves to the court despite the political harassment, despite the attack on press freedom," Ressa said.

"It shows that the court system works. We hope to see the remaining charges dismissed," she added. Ressa's acquittal was expected after she was cleared of similar tax charges nine months ago.

Those charges stem from a 2018 government indictment that accuses Ressa and Rappler of dodging tax payments after failing to declare proceeds of a 2015 sale of depositary receipts to foreign investors.

Ressa, 59, is currently on bail and was convicted

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India spinner Kuldeep Yadav celebrates with Virat Kohli following one of his four wickets during their Asia Cup Super Four fixture against Sri Lanka at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday. Having got bowled out for 213, Kuldeep's four-for helped India bundle out the defending champions for 172 to get a 41-run victory and book a spot in the final.

PHOTO: AFP

ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন

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- বর্ষা মৌসুমে এডিস মশার প্রকোপ বৃদ্ধি পায়। এডিস মশা ডেঙ্গু ও চিকুনগুনিয়া রোগের বাহক।
- ডেঙ্গু ও চিকুনগুনিয়া রোগের প্রারম্ভিক ঘটলে তা নগরবাসীর জন্য ভয়াবহ বিপর্যয় ডেকে আনতে পারে।
- এডিস মশা সাধারণত বাড়ির আশেপাশে পরিত্যক্ত টায়ার, ফুলের টব, চৌবাচ্চা/পানির ট্যাংক, নির্মাণাধীন বাড়ির লিফটের হোল, ছাদ, বেজমেন্টে জমা পানি, ওয়াশার পানির মিটার, ফ্রিজের ট্রে, এলির পিছনে জমা পানি, অপ্রয়োজনীয় পাত্র/কন্টেইনার, ডাবের খোসা, ডিসপোজেবল গ্লাস, প্লেট, পানির ড্রাম ইত্যাদি জায়গায় জমা পরিষ্কার পানিতে ডিম পাড়ার মাধ্যমে বংশ বিস্তার করে।
- আপনার আশিনায় উৎপাদিত এডিস মশা ডেঙ্গু ও চিকুনগুনিয়া রোগের কারণ হতে পারে।
- সবাই নিজ উদ্যোগে যার যার বাড়ির ভিতর এবং আশেপাশে পরিষ্কার রাখলে ডেঙ্গুমুক্ত ঢাকা মহানগরী গড়ে তোলা সম্ভব।
- নিজ নিজ বাড়ির আশেপাশে পরিত্যক্ত আর্বজনা নিজ দায়িত্ব পরিষ্কার/অপসারণ করার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে। অন্যথায় সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিরুদ্ধে জেল জরিমানাসহ যথাযথ আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

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